

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 19-23 are added. Claim 19-23 are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed, including, as follows:

Claim 19 is supported in the specification, inter alia, at page 3, lines 9-11;

Claim 20 is supported in the specification, inter alia, at page 2, lines 14-25.

Claim 21 is supported in the specification, inter alia, at page 2, lines 14-25 and page 3, lines 12-15;

Claim 22 is supported in the specification, inter alia, at page 3, lines 3-7;

Claim 23 is supported in the specification, inter alia, at page 2, lines 20-25 and page 3, line 20.

It is respectfully submitted that the present response presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. The Rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over WO 97/24177. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

WO 97/24177 is Applicant's own prior work (Applicant was formerly Novo Nordisk, the co-applicant of WO 97/24177). WO 97/24177 does not teach or even suggest compositions comprising a compound encapsulated in a vesicular encapsulation structure, as claimed in the present claims. Rather, WO 97/24177 discloses an encapsulation shell for an enzyme core which is formed by *in situ* coacervation or condensation of a monomeric or polymeric agents. See WO 97/24177 at page 5, lines 33-35, page 6, line 35 to page 7, line 5. The encapsulation layer resulting from the coacervation or condensation reaction is a randomly cross-linked (i.e., web-like or plastic-like structure), not a vesicular structure (i.e., uni- or multi-lamellar structure).

Thus, WO 97/24177 clearly does not teach or suggest to employ a vesicular encapsulation layer for a compound.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

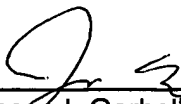
II. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to

contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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